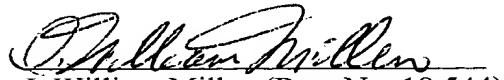


**REMARKS**

A principal purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to remove the multiply dependent claims and avoid the fee associated therewith, applicant reserving the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

  
I. William Millen (Reg. No. 19,544)  
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P. C.  
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
(703)812-5325  
Internet address: millen@mwzb.com

**Filed: May 26, 2000**

IWM(pdr)K:\PAT\PET\1845\prelim amend.wpd